

CONGRESSIONAL.

Thirty-Fifth Congress—First Session.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1858.

SENATE.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, ETC.

Mr. HAMMOND presented papers in relation to the claim of Richard W. Meade for expenses incurred in consequence of the refusal of Commodore Jones, in command of the United States squadron in the Pacific, to allow him to take command of a vessel in obedience to the order of the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. HAMILIN presented the petition of Grinnell, Minn., and Co., and other merchants and ship-owners of the city of New York, remonstrating against the passage of a law to repeal the act allowing bounties to vessels engaged in cod-fishing, on the ground that fisheries are the great source of employment for the most effective masters, mates, and sailors in the merchant service, and in time of war some of the best men in the navy of the United States, and that the removal of such bounties would almost annihilate that source of employment.

Mr. BROWN presented the petition of mechanics of the city of Washington, praying for the enactment of a law similar to its provisions to the laws embraced in the "Revised Code" in reference to mechanics' liens on real and personal property.

Mr. JONES presented a memorial of the legislature of Iowa, praying for aid in aid of the construction of the McGregor, St. Petersburg, and Missouri river railroad; also another, in favor of additional mail facilities in that State.

Several petitions of a private nature were presented, all of which were referred to the appropriate committees.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. FOSTER, from the Committee on Pensions, reported a bill for the relief of Mrs. Eliza A. Merchant, widow of the late Capt. Charles C. Merchant, of the United States army; which was read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. IVERSON, from the Committee on Claims, reported a bill to provide for a settlement of the accounts of the late Capt. John W. McCrabb; which was read and passed to a second reading.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. JONES asked and obtained leave to introduce a joint resolution to amend the limitations of the act entitled "An act for the relief of citizens of towns upon lands of the United States, under certain circumstances," approved 23d May, 1844; which was read twice and referred.

PENDING BUSINESS.

On motion by Mr. HALE, a resolution was adopted, ordering the printing of two thousand additional copies of the report of the Committee on Territories on the admission of Kansas, together with the views of the minorities of said committee.

SALARIES OF JUDGES.

On motion by Mr. PUGH, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to equalize the salaries of certain judges of the courts for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

Mr. PEARCE wished to look at the bill a little, and moved that its further consideration be postponed until to-morrow; which was agreed to.

LATE WARRANTS TO GEN. LAFAYETTE.

On motion by Mr. SLIDELL, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to amend an act entitled "An act to authorize a relocation of land warrants Nos. 3, 4, and 5, granted by Congress to General Lafayette," approved February 26, 1845. The provisions of the bill were explained by Messrs. SLIDELL and BENJAMIN, but, on motion by Mr. PUGH, the further consideration of the subject was postponed until to-morrow.

BILLS PASSED.

The following bills were severally considered and passed:

Bill to amend an act entitled "An act to authorize the President of the United States to cause to be surveyed the tract of land in the State of Kansas, and to grant to the half-breeds or mixed bloods of the Dakota, Sioux nation of Indians, and for other purposes," approved July 17, 1854.

Bill to amend an act entitled "An act to limit the liability of ship-owners, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1851.

THE INTERESTS OF TENNESSEE.

Mr. BELL presented joint resolutions of the legislature of Tennessee, commencing on his course in opposing the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and in favor of the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution; which were read. [They have already been published in the Union.]

Mr. B. said that the novel and extraordinary character of these resolutions might justify him in making some more extended remarks on them, but he should not do so at liberty to make. The first thing that would most naturally attract attention would be the date of the adoption of the resolutions, being the 10th day of the present month, and about four years since the vote was given which was there called in question. It had been usual, when the constitution of Kansas was adopted, in either branch, felt themselves aggrieved by the action of their representative upon a question materially affecting their interests, to take some method of expressing their displeasure promptly, or at least in some reasonable time after the knowledge of the course had reached them, either by calling public meetings or in some other way; and it was remarkable that after so long a time had elapsed this subject should now have been revived.

The next thing worthy of notice was that in the first clause the legislature endorse and approve, unconditionally, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, after the mischievous results of that measure have become so clear and unmistakable. Nor can they plead ignorance of these results, since the President has plainly and frankly informed them that one of these results has been to convulse the whole Union to its very centre—to light up flames of civil war in Kansas, and to produce dangerous sectional parties throughout the confederacy.

Mr. B. proceeded to allude to the various elections that had taken place in Tennessee since the vote which is now called in question. The first of these was in August, 1855, months after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. In that election, the principal question involved was Americanism. The next election was in November, 1856, two years and a half after the passage of the Nebraska bill. Americanism entered into that contest as the prominent element, but the Kansas bill was not even mentioned. The leaders of the democracy dwelt upon that but little, but availed themselves of the indications of Fremont's success in the North, and men of all parties were implored to support Mr. Buchanan, and defeat Fremont, as Fillmore had no chance of election. After the result of the Pennsylvania election was known, the Americans lost confidence in Fillmore's election, and went over to the support of Buchanan, who carried that State, it being the first time the democratic candidate for President had carried the State for twenty years. But Mr. Fillmore, who had declared that he had been a member of Congress he would not have been the Nebraska bill, received 66,000 votes in Tennessee.

The next election came off in August, 1857, in which the democratic carried the legislature and elected their candidate for governor. The whigs and Americans, discouraged by their defeat the year previous, could not be aroused to go into the election, and great numbers of them did not go to the polls. Allusion was made to the re-election of Mr. Etheridge by an increased vote, notwithstanding his vote against the Nebraska bill. To be sure, two of his colleagues, who voted the same way, were defeated, but not on account of that vote, but on the question of the doctrine of instructions at war time since the repeal of the Missouri Compromise had there been any settled indication of the opinion of the South on that question. Party leaders, as a matter of expediency, may have taken ground in favor of that measure, and in some cases may have carried a large vote of those who have never been in the market of the question; but he believed, if a fair and impartial vote could be taken on the question, an overwhelming majority would pronounce it one of the most unfortunate measures that Congress had ever passed.

Mr. B. completed the extracts from his speech embodied in the resolutions were garbled and unfair. He had declared that, after the people had seen the mischievous consequences of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, they would sustain him in his course against it; that that part of his speech did not omit the purposes of those who passed these resolutions. Their purpose was to disparage him in the eyes of the public; and he regarded the preamble and the first two resolutions as a gratuitous and deliberate insult to those who plotted their passage, although such might not have been the purpose of all who supported them. He also remarked that he regretted the doctrine of instructions at war both with the spirit and literal provisions of the constitution; democraticans, too, were disobeying instructions every day. As to the Lecompton constitution, there were many important facts connected with it of which he had no satisfactory knowledge, and which would be material to an intelligent decision on that question; and he had no reason to suppose that his legislature were better informed upon that matter than his.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, regretted to differ from his colleague upon this question, but justice to the democratic party of Tennessee required that he should not remain silent upon this occasion. In reply to the statement that this was rather a late day to comment upon the vote on the Kansas-Nebraska bill, Mr. J. remarked that in 1854, before the passage of that bill, the senate of Tennessee passed a resolution approving its principles and requesting the senators and representatives from that State to give it their support. There were only eight dissenting votes on the adoption of that resolution. In the Tennessee house of representatives other resolutions of similar character were introduced by Mr. J., and were voted for by every single member of that body. He proceeded to refer to the canvass for governor of the State in 1855, when he himself was elected; and he claimed that the Nebraska bill was the main issue which he pressed upon his competitor, who refrained from meeting him upon it. Undoubtedly, his opponent agreed with the democratic party upon that point, but was disinclined to separate from his old party friends upon the question. In the presidential election in 1856 the democratic party, whose platform embodied an unmistakable endorsement of the principles of the Nebraska bill, were victorious in Tennessee, and he thought it could be no doubt but that the minds of a large majority of the people of that State were fully made up in opposition to the ground taken by his colleague. Mr. J. further argued that the Missouri Compromise was virtually repealed by the bill for the organization of the Territory of New Mexico in 1850, and that the argument that it was a compact between the people of Congress could possess no power higher than that which the people had themselves. They could give no more than they possessed; and he replied with great force to the argument that the people of the State had no right to form a government, but must come to Congress and petition for liberty so to do. Mr. J. inquired whether his colleague would vote for the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton constitution in consequence of those instructions, or without them.

His argument that he should be bound by any instructions of the legislature, unless he should be convinced that those instructions were founded upon a full understanding of the subject, in all its bearings and consequences. The expressions of opinion by a State legislature were always entitled to a respectful consideration; and the great question with him would be, will the admission of Kansas give peace and quiet to the country or not? He was deeply interested in that question. If it would give peace, he was for it; and if not, he was against it firmly, now and forever. He thought the speech of his colleague would be a great disservice to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution that he had heard in this body.

Mr. JOHNSON asked, in the name of common sense, what mode could be resorted to to ascertain the wishes of the people of Tennessee, if it had not already been ascertained? He was always entitled to refer the subject again, and again. As to the remarks of his colleague that those resolutions were an insult to him, he disclaimed, on the part of those who offered them, any intention of that sort. He proceeded to consider the subject of slavery, in a philosophical point of view, as a necessary result of the circumstances in which men are placed, and their various mental and physical organizations, and drew a contrast between the course of himself and his colleague on the questions affecting the rights and institutions of the South. He hoped all would agree, North and South, to have no more compromises, but to abide by the constitution; there never could be a compromise without a sacrifice of principle and right.

Mr. BELL rejoined, commenting in severe terms on some portions of the remarks of his colleague, and yielded the floor with the understanding that he should be allowed to conclude to-morrow.

Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, by unanimous consent, the bill for the admission of Kansas into the Union might be made the special order for one o'clock on Thursday next. He remarked that it would be well to assign an early period for its consideration, as it was an important subject.

Mr. KING objected, and the motion was consequently lost; whereupon

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a statement of the expenditures during the year 1857 from the appropriation for the maintenance of the military establishment; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Also, a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a transcript of the official military register for the year ending June 30th, 1857; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CRAWFORD, of Georgia, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill to appropriate money to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for paper, printing, binding, and engraving ordered by the Senate and House of Representatives of the 33rd and 34th Congresses; and was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

On motion of Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, the further consideration of the resolution of Mr. HOARD, of New York, to appoint a select committee to investigate as to whether any corrupt influence had been exerted to procure the election of Mr. BUSS, of Ohio, against the resolution of Mr. HARRIS, of Illinois, to refer to the committee a message on the subject of Kansas affairs to a select committee, was postponed till day after to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, the usual resolution was adopted, terminating debate on the Indian appropriation bill in Committee of the Whole on Friday next at two o'clock.

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. GANNESWORTH, of Arkansas, in the chair,) and considered the bill for the purpose of making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with the various Indian tribes, for the year ending 30th June, 1858.

Mr. BURBANK, of New York, proceeded with his dissent to the black-republican party from the charges of sectionalism which had been made against it. He contended that three-fourths of the money used to purchase the territories of the United States had been furnished by the northern States. He said he would not vote for the admission of Kansas with slavery in her constitution, under any circumstances, and declared that of right she belonged to the North. If they permitted all the western Territories to be made into slave States, they would have no place for the settlement of the poor whites, who would not live in a slave State.

Mr. CURRY, of Alabama, addressed the committee in favor of the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution. He said the Kansas bill contained three distinct features: First, it took from Congress the power to legislate slavery into a Territory, or to exclude it therefrom; and second, it transferred the power to Congress to the territorial legislature, and vested in it full jurisdiction over all subjects of legislation, leaving the people perfectly free to regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States.

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portion of those who were now so hostile. The question had shaken the Union to its centre. If he had shown that the people had a right to form a constitution, the recent action of the legislature was irregular, and Congress had no right to send the constitution back. This would be giving to Congress an alarming power—giving it simple power over the constitutions of the States, because if Congress could look behind a republican constitution and find out whether a majority voted for it, it could decide who should constitute that majority, and who should vote at the election. The rejection of Kansas spoke the dissolution of the democratic party, which was the only figure-head upon which the Union together.

Mr. MORRIS, of Illinois, proceeded to defend the course of Judge Douglas in opposing the Lecompton constitution, concurring fully with that statesman, and declaring that he had not abandoned the democratic party. The President had no better friends than those democrats who differed with him in regard to Kansas. He was wrong, and he would find it out. The northern democrats had gone as far as they could, and if they should go with the President on this question a fearful retribution awaited them at home. He contended that the Lecompton constitution did not represent the will of the people of Kansas, and that they should not admit Kansas as a State under it, notwithstanding the fact that the constitution could be changed at any time.

Mr. ANDREWS, of New York, said he agreed with the President that Kansas had occupied the attention of Congress and the country for too long a period, but still he would not agree with him that the best mode of settling the difficulties was the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution. He then proceeded to give a history of Kansas and the formation of the constitution, contending that upon no principle of justice were they bound to accede to the demands for the admission of a State with slavery in its constitution, no matter whether or not sanctioned by the people, for the reason that he did not believe that any constitution with such a provision would be republican in its form.

Mr. CRAWFORD, of Georgia, obtained the floor, and the committee on the Territories, under the chairmanship of Mr. UNDERWOOD, of Kentucky, presented joint resolutions of the legislature of that State in relation to the soldiers of the revolution and the war of 1812; which were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. REEDY, of Tennessee, introduced a bill for the relief of William Howe, of the State of Tennessee; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

Mr. REILLY, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill granting bounty land to Henry J. Fleming, of Gettysburg, the post office at Tyler, in the State of Texas; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. STEVENS, of Washington Territory, presented joint resolutions of the legislative assembly relative to Oregon, including a portion of the Territory of Washington within her boundaries as a State; which were referred to the Committee on Territories.

Also, resolutions relative to the geological survey of Dr. John Evans; which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. REAGAN, of Texas, introduced a bill to provide for the accommodation of the courts of the United States, and the post office at Tyler, in the State of Texas; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

And then, on motion of Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, of New York, at 10 minutes of 4 o'clock, p. m., the House adjourned.

TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON.

Wolfe's Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps.

The proprietor begs leave to call the attention of strangers and the citizens of Washington to a very superior article of Holland gin, which he has imported from the most celebrated distillers of the Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps.

This gin is manufactured by the proprietor exclusively at his distillery in Schiedam, Holland. It is made from the best barley that can be procured in Europe at any cost, and flavored and medicated with the most delicate and pure essences of the most choice botanical variety of the aromatic Italian juniper berry, whose more viscous extract is distilled and rectified with its spirituous solvent, and thus becomes a concentrated essence of exquisite flavor and aroma, altogether transcending in its cordial and medicinal properties any alcoholic beverage heretofore known.

The proprietor has submitted it to nearly the whole medical faculty of the United States, and has received answers from about four thousand physicians and chemists, who endorse it, over their signatures, as the most delicate and pure medicinal beverage, and personally select it for their own use.

Persons who purchase should be careful to get the genuine article, as the whole country is flooded with counterfeits and imitations. Put up in quart and pint bottles, in cases of one dozen each, and for sale by all the respectable druggists and grocers in the United States.

Sole Importer and Manufacturer, DEPOT NO. 22 BEAVER STREET, NEW YORK.

CARD.

AN impression having gained ground among the ladies that the consignment of FANCY DRESS GOODS FROM NEW YORK, now on exhibition on the second floor of our establishment, is to be of great public interest.

We are directed by the owners to state distinctly and unequivocally that such will not be the case, although by such a course one-third more of the ladies would be personally interested in attending to the goods. These are not old goods, held for a time at a heavy profit, and proving unsalable, marked down slightly in price, and advertised as such.

Choice, Desirable, and Elegant Novelties, Entirely new to this market, and offered to the Washington ladies at one-half the actual cost of importation.

On Saturday evening, February 20th, the entire balance of this consignment remaining unsold will be returned to New York. This is the last chance.

HOODE, BROTHER, & CO., 157 N. 4th St. Penn. avenue, between 5th and 6th sts.

THE NEW BOOK STORE.—Franklin Philp, recently imported his friends and the public that he had located his store (now in the occupancy of Messrs. White & Co.) No. 332 Pennsylvania avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets. Having just returned from the south, he has a large and personally selected collection of English and American books and stationery, which will be found on examination to be of the choicest kind.

From F. Philp's long and varied experience in Europe and America, coupled with connections in London and Paris, his facilities will not be less than any house in the city. He is now opening his new establishment, and is prepared to receive orders for books, stationery, and other articles, at the lowest prices. Further particulars in future advertisements.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON.

Wolfe's Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps.

Is procured with great success by the medical faculty in gravel, gout, chronic rheumatism, dropsy, dyspepsia, sluggish circulation of the blood, indigestion, and other ailments, and is a beverage, it has no superior in the world.

Put up in quart and pint bottles, and for sale by all the druggists and grocers in Washington.

Sole Importer and Manufacturer, DEPOT NO. 22 BEAVER STREET, NEW YORK.

SPRING SUPPLIES IN FIRST-CLASS DRY GOODS.

Goods.—We are daily opening spring supplies, and will offer in the near future a large and comprehensive stock of new goods, including all the latest styles of English and American fabrics, and other articles, which will be found on examination to be of the choicest kind.

Our northern and eastern correspondents send us new supplies of goods, and we are inflexible in the application of our new rule requiring all bills to be closed by cash when presented. Notes will not be accepted.

Hereafter we shall present many bills monthly for settlement, others quarterly, and those only of our remarkably punctual customers who will cash each bill and January will be permitted to extend to those periods.

In all cases bills must be paid prior to opening new ones. We are now opening many new accounts. Customers who have to be applied to settle their bills will excuse us for saying we greatly prefer to discontinue their accounts. The recent financial crisis and the general shortening of credits have rendered it impossible for us to obtain the above-mentioned supplies of goods, and we are therefore obliged to close our doors.

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 24, 1858.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
Almon B. Noyes as collector of the customs for the district of St. Marks, Florida, vice Hugh Archer, deceased.
Jonathan G. Dickerson as collector of the customs for the district of Belfast, Maine, vice Ephraim C. Smart, whose commission has expired.

SENATOR GREEN'S REPORT.

The Weekly Union for the current week will contain entire the able report of Senator Green, from the Committee on Territories, upon the admission of Kansas into the Union. It will be ready for delivery on Thursday, and orders should be sent in by that morning. Price \$2 per hundred.

POLITICAL REMINISCENCES—TWO YEARS IN POLITICS.

It is very kind of one whose memory is stronger than his passions to remind politicians of what took place a year or two ago. Perhaps there are many who have suggested to themselves how absolutely wonderful it is that we forget so quick what has occurred within the briefest period. It would be unfair to infer from this that political actors, like theatrical performers, just take their parts and play them out.

A couple of years ago we were on the point of conferring a nomination for the presidency upon some worthy and distinguished man of the democratic party. It will be remembered that the Kansas-Nebraska act was thrust into the foreground in that family contest. Mr. Senator Douglas was its author. It had brought defeat upon us for a season. We had recovered in part; and we were promised success if we could confer the nomination upon a good, true, able, honest, inflexible man. The administration of General Pierce had met with great trouble in the government of Kansas. That government had been bitterly assailed; the Kansas act had been assailed; the democratic party and its men had been assailed. It was everywhere proclaimed that it was the purpose of the democracy to establish slavery in Kansas. Mr. Buchanan, always known in our government as an able, fearless, fair, and just man, one whom suspicion had not tainted, nor malice injured, nor even partisanship, in its most licentious latitude, assailed, was supported by the democracy, North and South. We well recollect that Mr. Douglas's friends—we will not say Mr. Douglas himself—thought it exceedingly unfair to place Mr. Buchanan in nomination, because such an act would be doing injustice to the sufferers under the legislation of 1854.

It was maintained that Mr. Buchanan had been absent during all the fight, and was uncommitted to that legislation; that, while Gen. Pierce and Mr. Douglas were straining every effort to uphold the territorial system established by Congress, Mr. Buchanan, night and day, and probably without, abandoned the whole affair, should he come into the executive office.

Now, it is the queerest sight in the world to witness the result of the experiment involving these little bits of history and the political objects sought to be accomplished by the act of 1854. Mr. Buchanan was nominated, elected, and is now the President. He inherited the Kansas affair entire. He sent out a governor and instructed him, greatly to the delight of Mr. Douglas, to recognize the territorial government, to enforce its laws, and to execute the will of the people expressed through those laws. Mr. Douglas, owing to some exceedingly shameless proceedings on the part of the "republicans," in and out of the Territory, was particularly incensed against the Topekaites and their sympathizers everywhere. He had been met at Chicago with the meanest and most cowardly insults. He was provoked by taunts and jeers, and when he offered to explain his position, a cloud of derision, menace, and hisses overwhelmed him, and drowned his voice. Now, Mr. Douglas is right on the other side. He is opposed to every effort of the administration to enforce the laws of Kansas, for that is the point. He acts with his old enemies. We only allude to these things as mere matters of reflection, and with no view in the world of criticizing the present position of the distinguished senator from Illinois. If any lesson is taught by our politics, it is that we should always be charitable and ever liberal towards those who disagree with us. We are convinced it is altogether right to admit Kansas; that it will be a complete and faithful enforcement of the Kansas act; that, if wrongs have been committed, it will provide the amplest of all means of redress. These are our views; but they are not the views of Mr. Douglas.

THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS AND THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR CONSTITUTION.—The Press is an extreme, we will not say ostentatious, advocate of the rights of the people, and we believe, if we understand it, a decided opponent of the admission of Kansas into the Union as an independent State. The Press is, too, an intense law-and-order journal. It declares the people to be sovereign, clothes them (the Press is paternal) with absolute power to ordain their own constitution, but is confident they can do this only for the first time. They may elect representatives under special instructions to seek a modification or change of their organic law; but, in the opinion of the Press, though nineteen-twentieths of the people demand it, they can effect no such end, except in strict obedience to the terms of that law. Now, we do not exactly comprehend how this can be. It is not so in practice, for New York, Louisiana, and several other States have abolished their constitutions in defiance of the terms prescribed by their amendment. By the constitution of the former State, adopted in 1821, a majority of all the members elected to two consecutive legislatures could, without any submission to the people, modify it at pleasure. These were the terms of amendment with a limitation against any other process. In 1846 a convention was elected in total disregard of the requirements of the constitution of 1821, and they put into operation the present government of that State. We cite this as a precedent. But the Press says the constitution of Kansas prohibits amendment till 1864. We are under a very strong impression that our cotemporary knew that its assertions in this respect were not well founded. The constitution of Kansas